



SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL Requirements for Teachers Prepared in California

A Single Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach the specific subject(s) named on the credential in departmentalized classes such as those in most middle schools and high schools. However, a teacher authorized for single subject instruction may be assigned to teach any subject in his or her authorized fields at any grade level— preschool, grades K–12, or in classes organized primarily for adults.

The statutory subjects available for Single Subject Teaching Credentials are as follows:

Agriculture	Languages other than English (specify)
Art	Mathematics
Biological Sciences (Specialized)	Music
Business	Physical Education
Chemistry (Specialized)	Physics (Specialized)
English	Science: Biological Sciences
Foundational-Level Mathematics	Science: Chemistry
Geosciences (Specialized)	Science: Geosciences
Health Science	Science: Physics
Home Economics	Social Science
Industrial and Technology Education	

Candidates for the Single Subject Teaching Credential who complete their teacher preparation through a [Commission-accredited program](#) in California must be recommended for the credential through their college or university credentials office. Programs will vary slightly from college to college, but all programs will include specific requirements established by the Commission. The sequence of requirements is listed below.

Requirements for the Preliminary Credential

The preliminary credential is issued for a maximum of **five years**. If requirements for the professional clear credential are not completed before the expiration of the preliminary, the holder will be unable to teach in California's public schools with that credential until those requirements are met and the document is renewed.

Applicants must satisfy **all** of the following requirements for the Five-Year Preliminary Teaching Credential:

1. Complete a baccalaureate or higher degree, except in professional education, from a regionally-accredited college or university
2. Complete a single subject teacher preparation program including successful student teaching, and obtain the formal recommendation for the credential by the California college or university where the program was completed
3. Pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) (For more information, contact the CBEST Program, National Evaluation Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 340880, Sacramento, CA. 94834-0880, 916-928-4001, 800-262-5080 or www.cbest.nesinc.com.)
4. Satisfy the Developing English Language Skills, including Reading requirement by completing a comprehensive reading instruction course that includes the following: the systematic study of phonemic awareness, phonics, and decoding; literature, language, and comprehension; and diagnostic and early intervention techniques
5. Complete a course (two semester units or three quarter units) in the provisions and principles of the U.S. Constitution, **or** pass an examination given by a regionally-accredited college or university
6. Verify knowledge of the subject to be taught by **one** of the following three methods:
 - a. achieve a passing score on the appropriate subject-matter examination(s). Information, including passing scores and registration, can be found in Verifying Subject-Matter Competence [leaflet CL-674S](#).

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- b. complete a Commission-approved subject-matter program or its equivalent and obtain verification of completion from the authorized person in the education department of a California college or university with an accredited program
 - c. for Specialized Science subjects only, individuals may take and pass the appropriate subject matter examinations or obtain verification of completion of subject-matter course work from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Information, including requirements and procedures, can be found in [Coded Correspondence 03-0010](#).
7. Complete foundational computer technology course work that includes general and specialized skills in the use of computers in educational settings

Requirements for the Professional Clear Credential

Individuals who complete a professional teacher preparation program and receive a five-year preliminary credential must earn a professional clear credential by completing one of the following three options:

Option 1

A Commission-approved Professional Teacher Induction Program through an approved school district, county office of education, college or university, consortium, or private school. The Induction Program includes the advanced study of health education, special populations, computer technology, and teaching English learners.

Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Programs (BTSA) have submitted programs written to Induction Program standards. An individual who did not have access to an induction program may have begun the BTSA Program and will finish the remaining requirements in an approved induction program that includes the advanced study course work content of health education, special populations, computer technology, and teaching English learners.

Individuals applying for the professional clear credential under Option 1 must submit their application through their approved Induction sponsor.

Option 2

A fifth year of study completed at a California college or university with a [Commission-accredited teacher preparation program](#), securing that institution's formal recommendation for the professional clear credential. The following must also be verified with the application for the professional clear credential:

- advanced course work in health education that includes, but is not limited to, nutrition; the physiological and sociological effects of alcohol, narcotics, and drug abuse; and the use of tobacco
- advanced course work in the laws, methods, and requirements for providing educational opportunities to special populations in the regular classroom
- advanced course work in computer technology including the use of computers in educational settings
- advanced course work in teaching English learners (effective July 1, 2005)

Individuals applying for the professional clear credential under Option 2 must contact their California college or university and obtain a formal recommendation. If an individual opts to complete the fifth year of study and the advanced study course work, the course work must be completed **after** the issuance date of the Five-Year Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential.

Option 3

Teachers who are certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards will be issued a Professional Clear Teaching Credential in the subject area in which they have received national certification. (See Table 1)

Individuals applying for the professional clear credential under Option 3 may apply directly to the Commission for a professional clear teaching credential by submitting **all** of the following:

- Copy of National Board Certification
- Application form (41-4) and current processing fees
- Character and Identification Clearance form (41-CIC), if not already on file with the Commission
- Copy of Livescan Service form (41-LS) or two fingerprint cards (FD-258) and appropriate fees, if not already on file with the Commission

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Table 1***National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification***

National Board Certification	California Certification
Early and Middle Childhood Certificate in Art, or Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood Certificate in Art	Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential in Art
Early Adolescence Certificate in English Language Arts, or Adolescence and Young Adulthood Certificate in English Language Arts, or Early and Middle Childhood/Literacy-Reading Language Arts Certificate	Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential in English
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood Certificate in Career and Technical Education	Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential in Industrial and Technology Education
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood Certificate in World Languages Other Than English	Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential in Languages Other Than English (specify language)
Early Adolescence Certificate in Mathematics, or Adolescence and Young Adulthood Certificate in Mathematics	Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential in Mathematics
Early and Middle Childhood Certificate in Music, or Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood Certificate in Music	Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential in Music
Early and Middle Childhood Certificate in Physical Education, or Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood Certificate in Physical Education	Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential in Physical Education
Early Adolescence Certificate in Science, or Adolescence and Young Adulthood Certificate in Science	Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential* Science: Biological Sciences Science: Chemistry Science: Geosciences Science: Physics
Early Adolescence Certificate in Social Studies-History, or Adolescence and Young Adulthood Certificate in Social Science-History	Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential in Social Science

* Teachers holding National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification in the area of Science will be issued the specific California science authorization based upon an out-of-state credential or official transcripts from a regionally-accredited college or university